

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6190

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8461

FOR ASSTSEC RICHARDSON (CU) FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, CI

SUBJECT: FY 76 IV NOMINATIONS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL: COLONEL
HOSMAN ABEL PEREZ

REF: STATE 283778

1. I REGRET I WAS NOT ABLE TO TALK WITH YOU IN YOUR OFFICE DURING MY BRIEF STAY IN WASHINGTON. ONE OF MY PURPOSES WAS TO DISCUSS THE IV INVITATION FOR COLONEL PEREZ, A CARABINERO OFFICER WHO IS UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HIS INSTITUTION AND SCHEDULED FOR PROBABLE PROMOTION TO GENERAL IN 1976.

2. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS, THE EMBASSY MISTAKENLY INVITED PEREZ BEFORE THE WAIVER REQUIRED FOR A MILITARY NOMINEE HAD BEEN GRANTED. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN TRYING TO GET THE WAIVER APPROVED, WITHOUT SUCCESS. ON MY RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, I BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION JUST ONCE MORE.

3. AS WE SEE IT, A WAIVER IS JUSTIFIED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

A) PEREZ IS A GOOD FRIEND OF OURS AND OF U.S. HE IS READY AND EAGER TO GO TO U.S.

B) THE WAIVER ASIDE, HE MEETS ALL CRITERIA FOR IVP,
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REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL INTEREST AS REPRESENTATIVE

OF A MAJOR ARMED SERVICE, AND PROGRAMMING WILL HAVE STRONGLY CIVILIAN CAST EMPHASIZING NON-POLICE AREAS OF CARABINEROS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN GOC.

C) IN CONTRAST, WITHDRAWING INVITATION NOW WILL HAVE FOLLOWING NEGATIVE IMPACT: OFFEND PEREZ HIMSELF; ALIENATE THE IMPORTANT CARABINERO LEADERS WITH WHOM HE IS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED AND WHO ARE WELL AWARE THAT HE IS FIRST CARABINERO HONORED WITH A U.S. IVP INTITATION--INCLUDING JUNTA MEMBER AND CARABINERO DIRECTOR GENERAL MENDOZA; AND BE TAKEN BY SENIOR CHILEAN MILITARY-LEADERS AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF USG'S APPARENT ANTI-CHILEAN BIAS.

4. IN TIGHT UPPER CHILEAN MILITARY CIRCLES, WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO PEREZ AND OFFER TO ANOTHER MILITARY CANDIDATE AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, WOULD BECOME KNOWN QUICKLY AND PROVOKE SPECULATION AND RESENTMENT. THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT TIME WHEN GOC IS ACUTELY AWARE OF AND CONCERNED OVER WITHDRAWAL OF US COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN MILITARY FIELD. IF WAIVER REFUSAL IS UPHOLD, EMBASSY WOULD THEREFORE NOT APPROACH COLONEL ALEJANDRO MEDINO LOIS OR CAPTAIN RONALD MCINTYRE MENDOZA.

5. IF DEPARTMENT'S RELUCTANCE IS BASED UPON FACT THAT PEREZ IS POLICE OFFICER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CARABINEROS ARE A PROFESSIONAL POLICE ORGANIZATION AND NOT CHILE'S POLITICAL POLICE. THEY HAVE BETTER REPUTATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA THAN SOME OF MILITARY SERVICES WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES WE ARE INVITING.

6. I NOTE FINALLY THAT CHILEAN MILITARY ARE LIKELY TO BE IN POWER FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER WE FEEL ABOUT THAT, IT SEEMS TO ME USEFUL TO KEEP OUR LINES OPEN TO THESE LEADERS. JUDICIOUS USE OF A FEW IV INVITATIONS IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO DO SO.

7. BASED ON ALL THE FOREGOING, I HOPE YOU WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RECONSIDER YOUR REFUSAL OF A WAIVER FOR PEREZ. WARM REGARDS.

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